

PREDICT NEW MINISTRY SOON IN GREAT BRITAIN

Washington Officials Hear From London Sources That Premier Asquith Will Go.

MAY NAME LLOYD GEORGE

"Purpose," Report Is, "to Substitute Statesmanship for Politics During Remainder of War"—Risked His Future to Serve Nation.

[Special to The Times-Dispatch.] WASHINGTON, May 5.—Officials of this government have received from London information that within four months there will be a new ministry in Great Britain.

David Lloyd George, it was declared, will be the new Premier, and the present Premier, Mr. Asquith, will not be included in the new Cabinet.

Lloyd George, according to the information received here, will associate himself principally with the Tories.

The reason for dropping Mr. Asquith was said to be a "purpose to substitute statesmanship for politics during the remainder of the war, and to have a statesman at the head of the government when the peace conference is held."

CARRY OUT PROGRAM IN ORDERLY FASHION

It was said that Lloyd George had risked his great popularity by supporting the "purpose" which Mr. Asquith believed would prove a failure through supposed hostility on the part of the British public.

Lloyd George, it was said, was willing to risk his future to serve the best interests of the nation, which required compulsory service.

Lloyd George's most telling argument in favor of conscription, it was said, was that "England must have it, if she would continue to be an independent nation, and not a subject people."

A general feeling throughout England that Mr. Asquith sacrificed the national interests for the sake of party and factional advantage is said to have been seized upon by the most powerful political and financial interests in the country to overthrow the Asquith government. The program, officials here are informed, will not be rushed to realization, but will be carried out in an orderly way without jeopardizing any of the national interests.

FRENCH POSITIONS TAKEN BY GERMANS

(Continued from First Page.)

troops and abandoned, according to the plan.

"Southeast of Haucourt several French trenches were captured and prisoners were taken. Reported attacks of the enemy against our position west of Dead Man Hill broke down completely.

"East of the Meuse the artillery actions were intense, especially during the night.

"A British biplane with French insignia was captured intact by us on the coast near the Dutch frontier. The inmates escaped to neutral territory.

"A German aerial squadron dropped many bombs with success on the railroads in Siblette and Auvie valleys, and also on the aeronautic station at Suppey.

BATTLE IN ADRIATIC REPORTED BY AUSTRIA

BERLIN, May 5 (via wireless to Sayville).—A battle in the Adriatic between Italian and Austrian warships and aircraft is reported in a statement received here today from the Austro-Hungarian admiralty.

The statement also says Austro-Hungarian airships have raided the Italian city of Ravenna.

"On the afternoon of May 3 an Austro-Hungarian naval air squadron bombarded with good effect the barracks and a sulphur factory at Ravenna. Flames were observed at the sulphur factory and a railroad station. The aeroplanes were shelled heavily by two batteries of anti-aircraft guns, but returned unharmed.

"At the same time, a reconnoitering squadron of torpedo-boats met four of the enemy's destroyers southwest of the mouth of the Po. A combat at long range ensued, but it was without effect, as the superior speed of the enemy's warships did not permit approach to them. Several aeroplanes joined the combat and fired with machine guns at the enemy's ships."

OPERATIONS IMPEDDED BY THE BAD WEATHER

PARIS, May 5.—The War Office communication this evening says:

"Bad weather has impeded the operations on most parts of the front, where only artillery fighting has been reported.

"To the west of the Meuse the bombardment went on with increased violence during the course of the day on the sector of hill No. 204. In the region of the Avoucourt wood and the Caurettes wood the bombardment is less violent, but continuous.

"To the east of the Meuse and in the Wever moderate artillery activity is reported.

"Army of the east: On the night of May 4-5, about 2 o'clock in the morning, a Zeppelin which was hovering over Salonki was brought down by the artillery of the allied fleet. The Zeppelin fell in flames at the mouth of the Vardar River."

Belgian communication:

"The German artillery at daybreak opened a violent fire on our positions to the north of Steenstraete and Dixmude. A very spirited fight between bomb throwers and pieces of every caliber ensued. During the bombardment the German line was severely damaged, the German defense organizations, which were shattered at several points."

FRENCH TROOPS OCCUPY GREEK TOWN OF FLOHINA

ATHENS, May 5 (via Paris).—Much significance is attached by Greeks generally to the occupation by French troops of the Greek town of Flohina, owing to its location being only eight miles south of Monastir.

Many Believe Reply Grants U.S. Demands

Poll of Congress Taken to Find Out Views of Senators and Representatives.

[Special to The Times-Dispatch.]

WASHINGTON, May 5.—A poll of Congress by the New York American today shows that of the members willing to express their opinions, an overwhelming majority believes Germany's reply grants the demands made by the United States.

The question submitted to Congress was: "Does the German reply meet the demands of the American note?"

The result was:

The House: Yes—Democrats, 15; Republicans, 36; Independent, 1; Socialist, 1. Total, 53.

No—Democrats, 3; Republicans, 7. Total, 10.

Noncommittal—Democrats, 123; Republicans, 99; Progressives, 2; Prohibitionist, 1; Progressive-Republican, 1; Progressive-Democrat, 1. Total, 228.

Absent—Democrats, 36; Republicans, 55; Progressive-Republicans, 1; Progressive, 1. Total, 115. (One vacancy.)

The Senate: Yes—Democrats, 12; Republicans, 6. Total, 18.

No—Republicans, 3.

Noncommittal—Democrats, 29; Republicans, 15. Total, 44.

CHICAGO MAN PICKED UP BY GERMAN SUBMARINE

John D. Harrison Tells of Thrilling Experience in Bay of Biscay.

AFTERWARD CAST ADRIFT

Furnished With Dry Clothing by U-Boat's Commander and Then Put on Life Raft, From Which Scotch Patrol Rescues Him.

NEW YORK, May 5.—John D. Harrison, twenty-four years old, of Chicago, who has just arrived from Liverpool, tells a story of having been pulled aboard a German submarine in the Bay of Biscay, a ship on which he was steward had been sunk, then cast adrift on a life raft, to be picked up two hours later by a Scotch patrol boat and finally landed at Falmouth wearing a rough suit of clothes given to him by the submarine commander. Through the United States consul at Cardiff, Wales, Harrison said, he filed a claim with the British admiralty for \$250 for the loss of his effects.

The ship sunk, according to Harrison, was the Margam Abbey, of English registry, laden with flour and other provisions to supply the British cruisers in the Atlantic.

SHIP IS HAILED BY SHELL FROM SUBMARINE

"April 10," he said, "while we were at the head of the Bay of Biscay, the first mate at 3 o'clock in the morning sighted a submarine off the starboard bow. The German boat chased us and began firing explosive shells, and one rendered us helpless. I jumped into the water, but before the German commander had called out that he would pick me up, I had on a life belt and was supported by some planks. I was in the water twenty minutes when the submarine came alongside and pulled me in."

"The submarine commander said he was going to set me adrift on a life raft. He said I would soon be picked up by one of the English patrol boats, for he said they had been hunting for him for a week. 'But tell them for me,' he added, 'that we are still here.'"

"Well, they put me on the raft in my dry German suit. Half of the crew were on top of the submarine watching me, and they waved their caps, and all shouted in English, 'Good-by.' The submarine moved off and soon submerged, and that was the last I saw of her."

The others, with the exception of the captain, who were aboard the Margam Abbey, Harrison said, escaped in lifeboats.

MEN IN THE TRENCHES COMPLAIN OF MONOTONY

In Dreary and Desolate Flanders Moving of Windmills Only Break In Terrible Sameness.

ON THE BRITISH FRONT, FRANCE, May 4.—The monotony of modern warfare is spoken of frequently by officers and men returning home from the battle zone, but one scarcely realizes in full the awful dreariness of much of it without having visited the front.

There is, of course, no monotony in such a conflict as that waged at Verdun, and at any point in the lines there may be bursts of activity that will furnish a temporary thrill for the men engaged, but once these operations have achieved the desired result or failed, as the case may be, the fighting settles back into its previous dreary state, so distressing to officers and men. Question soldiers at the front as to what has impressed them most in the operations, and almost invariably comes the reply:

"The monotony, the terrible sameness of it all."

Nowhere in the West is war more invisible than in Flanders. Literally there is nothing to be seen. A misty gray line of trees, a ruined farmhouse, a stake of wood with tangle of barbed wire—that is all there is to show where the enemy is lying. Yet the haunting impression is always present that unseen hostile eyes are watching.

It is a desolate, melancholy country. To the stranger the only ray of thing about it are the windmills. Right up within the zone of the fire they contrive to throw up their arms with extravagant gestures to the skies, working away steadily at their daily tasks, despite the invader, with true Belgian persistence and obstinacy. Many of them have of course been mutilated by shell fire.

ROOSEVELT DECLINES TO MAKE COMMENT

[Special to The Times-Dispatch.] OSTER, N. Y., May 5.—Colonel Roosevelt would not comment to-night on Germany's answer to President Wilson's note on the submarine question. He also declined to make any statement about the political situation.

L. & N. RY. LOANED FUNDS TO AID CITIES AND STATES

President Smith Startles Interstate Commission by Proposal to Terminate Investigation.

FINISHES DIRECT TESTIMONY

Upon Advice of Counsel Witness Refuses to Answer Many Searching Questions, Which May Be Certified to District Attorney.

WASHINGTON, May 5.—Milton H. Smith, president of the Louisville and Nashville Railway, finished his direct testimony today in the Interstate Commerce Commission's investigation of the road's affairs. He will be cross-examined to-morrow.

Mr. Smith's testimony dealt with subjects ranging from the suicide of a student captain to legislative bodies. These, he said, were all menaces in action a calamity. He started all connected with the case by proposing an immediate termination of the investigation through a compromise with the men, who, he said, were back of it, and chuckled at the disfigurement of his counsel when he said it. He gave conditions of politics, plutocrats and pro-business, told why he thought American citizens were prohibited by law from owning vessels in international trade, smilingly took his counsel's advice not to answer certain questions, and insisted upon answering others in his own way and in as many words as he chose.

There was a series of searching questions, however, that Mr. Smith did not answer. To each of them his counsel interposed objections and an admonition to refuse to testify.

CASE MAY REACH FEDERAL SUPREME COURT

These questions, with others, also unanswered, relating to campaign contributions, will be certified within a day or two, Mr. Folk said, to the district attorney here in a motion to compel Mr. Smith. Counsel for both sides will ask that the motion be expedited. It was expected, however, that in case of an adverse decision to Mr. Smith the contest might be carried to the United States Supreme Court.

Mr. Smith testified that not only had the Louisville and Nashville come to the financial aid of Alabama in 1912, but frequently had come to the aid of other Commonwealths.

"We loaned money recently to the city of Lexington, Ky.," he said, "also to the city of Birmingham, Ala., and not long ago to the city of Columbia, Tenn."

"Who asked you to help out the State of Alabama in 1912?" asked Joseph W. Folk, counsel for the commission.

"The subject then was dropped."

By advice of counsel, Mr. Smith declined to say how much money the road had contributed to the railroad associations of Tennessee, Alabama and Kentucky or to explain a voucher for \$25,000 given in February, 1910, "for special fees."

These were the only letters of the L. & N. asked Mr. Folk.

"No, I haven't," Mr. Smith replied, emphasizing the pronoun.

"Have you given orders to anybody to burn any of your correspondence?" Mr. Jouett objected.

"That's not my business," Mr. Smith said. The subject then was dropped.

By advice of counsel, Mr. Smith declined to say how much money the road had contributed to the railroad associations of Tennessee, Alabama and Kentucky or to explain a voucher for \$25,000 given in February, 1910, "for special fees."

These were the only letters of the L. & N. asked Mr. Folk.

"No, I haven't," Mr. Smith replied, emphasizing the pronoun.

"Have you given orders to anybody to burn any of your correspondence?" Mr. Jouett objected.

"That's not my business," Mr. Smith said. The subject then was dropped.

By advice of counsel, Mr. Smith declined to say how much money the road had contributed to the railroad associations of Tennessee, Alabama and Kentucky or to explain a voucher for \$25,000 given in February, 1910, "for special fees."

These were the only letters of the L. & N. asked Mr. Folk.

"No, I haven't," Mr. Smith replied, emphasizing the pronoun.

"Have you given orders to anybody to burn any of your correspondence?" Mr. Jouett objected.

"That's not my business," Mr. Smith said. The subject then was dropped.

By advice of counsel, Mr. Smith declined to say how much money the road had contributed to the railroad associations of Tennessee, Alabama and Kentucky or to explain a voucher for \$25,000 given in February, 1910, "for special fees."

These were the only letters of the L. & N. asked Mr. Folk.

"No, I haven't," Mr. Smith replied, emphasizing the pronoun.

"Have you given orders to anybody to burn any of your correspondence?" Mr. Jouett objected.

"That's not my business," Mr. Smith said. The subject then was dropped.

By advice of counsel, Mr. Smith declined to say how much money the road had contributed to the railroad associations of Tennessee, Alabama and Kentucky or to explain a voucher for \$25,000 given in February, 1910, "for special fees."

These were the only letters of the L. & N. asked Mr. Folk.

"No, I haven't," Mr. Smith replied, emphasizing the pronoun.

"Have you given orders to anybody to burn any of your correspondence?" Mr. Jouett objected.

"That's not my business," Mr. Smith said. The subject then was dropped.

By advice of counsel, Mr. Smith declined to say how much money the road had contributed to the railroad associations of Tennessee, Alabama and Kentucky or to explain a voucher for \$25,000 given in February, 1910, "for special fees."

These were the only letters of the L. & N. asked Mr. Folk.

"No, I haven't," Mr. Smith replied, emphasizing the pronoun.

"Have you given orders to anybody to burn any of your correspondence?" Mr. Jouett objected.

"That's not my business," Mr. Smith said. The subject then was dropped.

Southern Banks Make Best Showing

Largest Percentage of Profit in Federal Reserve System Is Made in Richmond.

According to the recent report of the Federal Reserve Board, combined earnings of all Federal reserve banks for the first quarter of the present year was \$755,707, and the total current expenses \$495,020. Expenses of operation were \$115,861 for the quarter, while the cost of reserve notes issued by the banks, expenses caused by the exchange of reserve notes between banks, shipment of notes to Washington for destruction, and other incidentals, accounted for additional quarterly expense of \$24,178.

The excess of total earnings over total current expenses for the quarter were, therefore, \$257,667, or at the annual rate of about 1.5 per cent on a total paid-in capital of \$24,000,000. The most favorable showing was made by the Southern banks. For the quarter, the Richmond bank showed an excess of earnings over expenses of \$133,848, an annual rate of 3.25 per cent on an annual capital of \$2,550,000. Atlanta, including the New Orleans branch, earned at an annual rate of 4.91 per cent, and Dallas, 4.34 per cent.

All banks in the system except St. Louis and Kansas City made their current expenses in 1915. A 5 per cent dividend was paid by the Richmond bank to its members at the end of the year, and since then an annual dividend of 1 per cent was paid on April 1, making the statutory 6 per cent dividend. The Dallas bank paid a preliminary dividend on account of 1915 of 1.25 per cent.

Federal reserve banks which have so far paid any dividends on their stock.

Mr. Smith to H. P. Lee, secretary of the American Antiboycott Society in New York City, in which Mr. Smith said that, "due to the activities of the Interstate Commerce Commission, who want to examine even our correspondence, a further contribution seemed unwise."

REFUSES TO EXPLAIN PURPOSE OF VOUCHERS

"Yes," Mr. Smith said, "I wrote it. After the introduction here yesterday of confidential letters and memoranda, I had come to the conclusion that hereafter I could better tell our letters at all, but do all our business by telephone. And when we do have to write a letter, add on the bottom a postscript, 'burn this.'"

"Have you given orders to anybody to burn any of your correspondence?" Mr. Jouett objected.

"That's not my business," Mr. Smith said. The subject then was dropped.

By advice of counsel, Mr. Smith declined to say how much money the road had contributed to the railroad associations of Tennessee, Alabama and Kentucky or to explain a voucher for \$25,000 given in February, 1910, "for special fees."

These were the only letters of the L. & N. asked Mr. Folk.

"No, I haven't," Mr. Smith replied, emphasizing the pronoun.

"Have you given orders to anybody to burn any of your correspondence?" Mr. Jouett objected.

"That's not my business," Mr. Smith said. The subject then was dropped.

By advice of counsel, Mr. Smith declined to say how much money the road had contributed to the railroad associations of Tennessee, Alabama and Kentucky or to explain a voucher for \$25,000 given in February, 1910, "for special fees."

These were the only letters of the L. & N. asked Mr. Folk.

"No, I haven't," Mr. Smith replied, emphasizing the pronoun.

"Have you given orders to anybody to burn any of your correspondence?" Mr. Jouett objected.

"That's not my business," Mr. Smith said. The subject then was dropped.

By advice of counsel, Mr. Smith declined to say how much money the road had contributed to the railroad associations of Tennessee, Alabama and Kentucky or to explain a voucher for \$25,000 given in February, 1910, "for special fees."

These were the only letters of the L. & N. asked Mr. Folk.

"No, I haven't," Mr. Smith replied, emphasizing the pronoun.

"Have you given orders to anybody to burn any of your correspondence?" Mr. Jouett objected.

"That's not my business," Mr. Smith said. The subject then was dropped.

By advice of counsel, Mr. Smith declined to say how much money the road had contributed to the railroad associations of Tennessee, Alabama and Kentucky or to explain a voucher for \$25,000 given in February, 1910, "for special fees."

These were the only letters of the L. & N. asked Mr. Folk.

"No, I haven't," Mr. Smith replied, emphasizing the pronoun.

"Have you given orders to anybody to burn any of your correspondence?" Mr. Jouett objected.

"That's not my business," Mr. Smith said. The subject then was dropped.

By advice of counsel, Mr. Smith declined to say how much money the road had contributed to the railroad associations of Tennessee, Alabama and Kentucky or to explain a voucher for \$25,000 given in February, 1910, "for special fees."

These were the only letters of the L. & N. asked Mr. Folk.

"No, I haven't," Mr. Smith replied, emphasizing the pronoun.

"Have you given orders to anybody to burn any of your correspondence?" Mr. Jouett objected.

"That's not my business," Mr. Smith said. The subject then was dropped.

By advice of counsel, Mr. Smith declined to say how much money the road had contributed to the railroad associations of Tennessee, Alabama and Kentucky or to explain a voucher for \$25,000 given in February, 1910, "for special fees."

These were the only letters of the L. & N. asked Mr. Folk.

"No, I haven't," Mr. Smith replied, emphasizing the pronoun.

"Have you given orders to anybody to burn any of your correspondence?" Mr. Jouett objected.

"That's not my business," Mr. Smith said. The subject then was dropped.

By advice of counsel, Mr. Smith declined to say how much money the road had contributed to the railroad associations of Tennessee, Alabama and Kentucky or to explain a voucher for \$25,000 given in February, 1910, "for special fees."

These were the only letters of the L. & N. asked Mr. Folk.

"No, I haven't," Mr. Smith replied, emphasizing the pronoun.

GERMANY VERY ANXIOUS FOR SEPARATE PEACE

Looks to America to Make Move That Berlin Dare Not Openly Make.

TALKED OF IN EVERY CLASS

Belief Generally Accepted That in Conversation Between Kaiser and General Subjects Discussed Were Not Confined to Germany's Reply.

An International News Service correspondent sends the following dispatch: ROTTERDAM, May 5.—There are indications that the German government is fervently desirous to conclude a separate peace.

In Berlin, I learn from Americans, people of every class are talking nothing else.

The belief is generally accepted that in the conversation between Ambassador Gerard and the Kaiser at headquarters the subjects discussed were not confined to Germany's reply to the American note. Germany wants peace and is looking to America to make the move that Germany dare not openly make.

Perhaps this statement may be regarded as contradicted by the character of the German note, with what looks like an ultimatum in the final paragraph. But this would be an error.

It is necessary to bear in mind the devious ways of Prussian diplomacy.

Germany wants nothing less than the removal of the British blockade, and in that wish is the key to the present situation in the submarine war. The blockade has produced an economic situation which is rapidly becoming unbearable.

A peace kite flown to-day in the Swiss newspaper *Zuricher Post* is circulated from Berlin by the official agency, which quotes it as written by a well-known subject of a neutral country.

"Who can be the peacemaker?" it asks. "Who will bring the nations that are longing for peace back to the conditions of humanity? Who will point a path for the return to morality and civilization?"

"In America it is possible to lay the foundations upon which peace can be built up. This appears to be the work and historic task of America."

Meanwhile, a symptom of the possibility of peace is the strength of the exchange rates, which are mounting daily.

The only German newspaper comment so far available on the German reply to the American note is that of the *Local Anzeiger*, the government organ, which says:

"In view of its spirit, need we express the expectation that the American spirit of justice, on which the emphasis was laid in the American note, will find its value in deeds?"

"The compromise which comes from the German side has issued from consciousness of German power, German successes, and the justice of the German cause. No criticism can be passed on the German standpoint in any reasonable way. It rests upon principles repeatedly laid down by America as to the rights of international law and humanity."

AMUSEMENTS

TWO MORE OPPORTUNITIES TO SEE "MERELY MARY ANN"

There are but two more opportunities to see the remarkable presentation of "Merely Mary Ann," which the Price Players at the Academy are investing with all the charm of novelty. Patricia Collins gives a ideal portrayal of the little slavey that will live long in memory. The enthusiasm created by the new company is shown by the most enthusiastic applause known at the Academy in many a day. On Monday night is the premiere of a new Irish comedy of romance, "Colleen," by Catherine Chisholm Cushing. It will be a notable event, as theatrical first nights are rare in Richmond. The scenes are laid in Limerick and London. "Colleen" is a play of wit and vivacity, with a big dramatic situation and a love story as sweet as a waft of spring breezes. Miss Collins will create a role of Sarah, the Limerick lass, and Reggie Sheffield, a distinguished boy actor from London, is especially engaged as Patsy, with the full strength of the new company that has won cordial appreciation.

WEIGHTED DOWN WITH COIN

Woman Unconscious on Street Had \$500 in Nickels and Dimes.

PHILADELPHIA, May 5.—Weighted down by \$500 in nickels and dimes, an unidentified woman was found lying unconscious at Third and Queen Streets. She was sent to Mt. Sinai hospital, where it was found she was suffering from vertigo. The woman is about seventy years old, and shabbily dressed. When an effort was made by the patrol crew of the Second District to lift her into the wagon, it was found she was unusually heavy for a woman of her build, but it was not until the hospital was reached